Shortage of petroleum products in U.P. and M.P.

7167. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of diesel, petrol, LPG and other petroleum products and failure in their distribution network in Bhopal, Indore and Raipur in MP and Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, have brought extreme crisis to the consumers in the months of March, April and May, 1995;

(b) whether the transporters had to suspend their movement, resulting into more crisis for consumers in the above areas;

(c) whether by and large people in the areas had to secure LPG at more than double of its price;

(d) whether some of the distributors have been identified for taking advantage of the adverse distuation of the Oil Companies and they have increased their profits by leaps and bounds;

(e) whether Government have proper course of action against those who practise unholy business gains during such situation; and

(f) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There was a shortage of Diesel, Petrol, LPG and other petroleum products in Bhopal, Indore and Raipur in M.P. and Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh in the months of March, April and May 1995 due to operational constraints in Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL), Bijaipur, unscheduled closure of Mathura Refinery and inadequate movement of Tank Wagons.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. In fact Oil Companies had inducted additional tank trucks for mvoement of petroleum products during the above period, besides increasing the rail movement.

No complaints regarding alleged black-marketing/over-charging were received.

(e) and (f) In case of malpractices/ irregularities, action is taken against offenders under Marketing Discipline Guidelines. In established cases of malpractices/irregularities, offenders are warned or fined and repeated violations lead to the suspension or termination of dealerships.

Foreign exchange incurred in importing paraffin wax type-II

7168. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH:
SHRI JANARDAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of paraffin wax type-II imported during 1994-95;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange incurred by Government for the import of the same;

(c) the total amount of subsidy allowed by Government on the import of paraffin wax during the said year;

(d) whether it is a fact that the SSI Units in the country can produce paraffin wax type-II, if they are supplied with slack wax; and

(e) if so, what is the total quantity of slack wax earmarked for these SSI Units for 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) About 23,000 MTs. of paraffin wax type-II was imported during 1994-95 for an estimated value of US $ 1,36,22,500 involving an estimated subsidy of Rs. 23.6 crores.

(d) and (e) Presently slack wax is produced in the country by the refineries at Barauni, Haldia and Madras. The slack wax produced is supplied to all authorised slack wax processing units registered with Director of Industries to produce type III paraffin wax, which is also certified by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards).

During 1995-96, slack wax availability is projected to be about 54 TMTs for distribution to eligible SSI Units in the country.